

Say Duty Exemption at Vera Cruz Would Eliminate Military Problem

Business Men Anxious to Make Commercial Advantage of American Occupation, Urge That Goods Made in the United States Be Admitted Free of Duty As in Cuba—Would Give Our Trade Predominance Over European.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.
Staff Correspondent of The Washington Herald.

Vera Cruz, May 2.—Hardly had the papers announced the formal establishment of civil government and the appointment of a civil governor here than American merchants and importers of American goods began planning to turn the occupation to commercial advantage. From now on the President and the War Department will be besieged by manufacturers with demands that American goods be admitted to Vera Cruz duty free, a discrimination against goods of some other nation, but a discrimination which was practiced during the occupation of Cuba and which resulted in giving American trade a clear predominance in the new republic.

Among the first callers on Gov. Kerr today were merchants with goods awaiting passage through the customs-house. Import duties particularly upon goods which came largely from the United States have been terrific of late. Huerfano, after raising duties to 20 per cent, tackled a clear 50 per cent increase on imports. Those who had American goods waiting for them immediately entered a plea that the import duties on American goods at least be reduced if not wiped out altogether.

Of course, the inauguration of any such policy would be a most important step and one which would bring violent protests from manufacturers and shippers of other nations. There is not the slightest doubt that Great Britain, Germany or any European nation under similar circumstances would do likewise. But, while admitting this, Englishmen and Germans here declare they will urge their governments to make strong protests against any such action.

Fear by Europe.

This course has been the one most feared by other nations in American intervention. The European nations with big interests here say that, aside from clean up Mexico and restore their profitable occupations, but they do not want to reap any of the benefits of such a course.

The problem presented is one which probably will have to be threshed out in Congress. If American occupation of Vera Cruz continues long enough to spread to an occupation of all or a large part of Mexico. It will be called by many "dollar diplomacy," and will meet much opposition on the part of business men here who, aside from the commercial advantage to the United States, it will quickly reduce and finally eliminate the military problem presented by intervention.

Take no steps which may tend to prolong American occupancy of Vera Cruz.

This in effect sums up the orders Robert J. Kerr, last night appointed civil governor of the city of Vera Cruz and vicinity, has received from Washington. The Washington policy will be to avoid a lengthy occupation with all its contingent worry and expense.

Gov. Kerr intends to put into effect much the same policy as Gov. Gen. Francisco Burton Harrison is trying out in the Philippines with a view to furnishing the natives practical experience in self-government under careful supervision by American officers. With this end in view the state and the regular regulations promulgated by Admiral Fletcher for the new civil government specifically provide:

"The officials to be appointed as herein contemplated may be either Americans or Mexicans or any other nationality, it being the intent and purpose to extend to the inhabitants of the territory affected hereby as large a participation in the administration of the government as may be practicable, with due consideration for the ends to be hereby accomplished."

Without an intelligent inkling of what is in the hands of the administration as far as Mexico is concerned, it is impossible accurately to outline probable future developments here. Mr. Kerr has been appointed for the vicinity of Vera Cruz as well as the city itself. This in reality means that he is civil governor of the entire state and will see to it that this is the intention of Washington to clean out the state, including Gen. Maas, who should be able to expect slight consideration at the hands of the people.

Gen. Maas himself feels this, and is inclined to a strongly conciliatory attitude. Last night replying to a letter from Consul Canada, he promised that all Americans in his district would be permitted to pass into Vera Cruz unmolested. This letter accompanied the train load of refugees who had been detained for some time in the federal prison at Cordoba, and sent to Vera Cruz in a condition to make the blood of every civilized being boil with indignation.

There is little doubt in the minds of those who know Maas that he would welcome an opportunity to surrender himself to the protection of American arms, if assured of a safe asylum. But whether anything of the kind would be a question. Maas should be made to answer personally for the deaths of seventeen American bluejackets and marines, most of whom were shot down by hidden marksmen placed by Maas after he had assured Consul Canada that no resistance would be offered to the American forces. Maas did this after Canada had warned him of the impending landing in order.

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to let him get his troops out of town. Maas himself has no stomach for a fight under ordinary conditions. Now, with overwhelming American forces in front of him and no support from Huerfano, he is expected either to ask for amnesty or to leave the state for service in the North, against the constitutionalist. Maas is reputed here to be a great personal coward. On trial for murder in his younger days, he made the plea that he had killed his man because he was "crazed" by the heat of the sun. He is comfortably at the taking of Vera Cruz is a state matter, one for Gen. Maas to handle, and not one about which Huerfano should concern himself.

The Deposed Governor. Introducing the newest and latest in civil government, Mr. Robert J. Kerr, of Chicago and elsewhere, civil governor under the military occupation of Vera Cruz and vicinity, by American naval and military forces, appointed just yesterday afternoon taking the oath with a promise that he would have done credit to a Democratic appointee.

Beyond his title, we know little of Mr. Kerr's past. Perhaps he knows more. Mr. Kerr is a man who gives the impression of "knowing something," without feeling that he knows everything. He is big, but not fat; bald, but not old; smooth faced, clear eyed, thoroughly reassuring in appearance.

Also, Mr. Governor Kerr is uncommunicative without being unpleasant about it. He doesn't talk unless he has something to say. At present, having been

To Cut Mexico in Two Only Way to End Strife

People of North, Progressive, Hate the Reactionary South and Only Solution of Problem Is Formation of Northern Republic and Southern Oligarchy.

Vera Cruz, May 8.—The consensus of opinion here is that the only solution of Mexico's internal problem, irrespective of the wishes of the people, is to cut Mexico in two. It is the division of Mexico into a Northern republic and a Southern oligarchy. Since long before Porfirio Diaz there has been constant friction between the Northern and Southern halves of Mexico. Diaz, the strong man, quelled it with his iron fist, but he has gone, and the old, long-smoldering fire has again burst into flame.

With a new heaven of freedom absorbed from its sons who have been in the United States and have returned with tales of the liberty and wealth of the United States, the North has been constantly strengthening itself and steadily growing away from the South in both customs and ideas. The result is that the people of the North hate the South, and their hatred is returned. The population of the North is mainly half-breed Indians, with Caucasian blood predominating. And they have not been held in the Philippines with a view to furnishing the natives practical experience in self-government under careful supervision by American officers. With this end in view the state and the regular regulations promulgated by Admiral Fletcher for the new civil government specifically provide:

North Restless; South Apathetic. The North is restless and rugged; the South, spineless and apathetic; the North is progressive, as witness the efforts of Villa and other revolutionists; the South is reactionary. The North is independent; the South, inclined toward foreign or European financial domination. It was the Southern reactionaries who supported Maximilian, while the Northerners were Diaz. Today, in overthrowing the attempted French empire, it was the same element in the South which recently sought joint European intervention, having planted concessions in advance for the same people.

The same people now turn in hope to American intervention; would be glad to have a division of the country, with the United States to keep the North in order, leaving them to set up another iron-heeled oligarchy. The feeling even extends to Huerfano's army officers, whose greatest fear is that American intervention will strengthen Carranza, Villa, and the Northern constitutionalists and deprive them of their jobs, if not their lives.

Talk of united Mexican opposition to the United States is not regarded seriously.

TOURISTS SEE PLAY IN OLD GREEK THEATER

"Agamemnon" Produced at Syracuse as It Was When Aeschylus Saw It 2,400 Years Ago.

AMERICANS ARE IN AUDIENCE

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Kerr stood at the elbow of Admiral Fletcher throughout the trying first days of the occupation. He has an intimate knowledge and fine sympathetic understanding of the characteristic and methods of thought of these people here, and the wise course taken by the American forces to restore public confidence was no doubt to a considerable extent due to his advice.

It was by Mr. Kerr's advice that every effort was made to restore old civil government before martial law was proclaimed. When this was found impracticable because the state officials would not come back to their jobs, Mr. Kerr suggested the course which, it is hoped, will bring about somewhat the same results by indirection.

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Used to the Iron Heel. They know only the tax gatherer and the iron heel in the South. In the North they have enjoyed the rule of the law and the attendant horrors, but they are also much more advanced toward civilization.

All who have guns today eventually will have either to be killed or captured by force, because they have found under recent conditions that it is easier to make a living by shooting than by working. In the South all the army officers have European blood in them, while the men in the ranks are peons. In the North, there is more equality of rank and station; officers and men are more nearly on a level. In the South the soldiers are treated unmercifully by the officers, who are besides little despots every one. "Kraters" who stop at nothing in the way of picking up easy money here and there. Peons with honest officers would make good soldiers. They are fatalists and obey orders without question.

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LITTLE PRINCESS DEAD, LOVER A BLACKMAILER

Ex-Convict Threatened Sweetheart's Father with Exposure of Her Letters.

FOILS POLICE, THEN IS FOILED

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Milan, May 2.—A daring attempt to blackmail Prince Emanuele Gonzaga by threatening to publish a batch of love letters written by his daughter, who died in her teens about two years ago, was exposed here today.

The prince recently received a telephone message from some unknown person, who demanded sufficient funds to enable him to emigrate to the United States and start a fresh career.

A threat was made that unless the prince complied, the unknown would publish a quantity of compromising love letters from the pen of Princess Elisabetta.

An appointment was made, and punctually a mysterious individual, smartly dressed, drove up to the prince's palace, however, he merely delivered into Prince Gonzaga's hands a packet of twenty-eight letters, saying the prince could peruse them in his leisure.

The prince, however, politely took leave, and the police, who were hidden in an adjacent apartment, were unable to act since no attempt at blackmail had been made.

The same evening, however, the stranger rang up the prince on the telephone, requesting a prompt decision, and stating that the epistles handed to him were only the most innocent and least important of a vast collection which were actually in the press.

The police thereupon arrested the blackmailer, a man named Gaetano Freni, from Sarno, Sicily, at whose house were seized the original letters in the prince's handwriting. The whole stock of printed copies were ready for issue.

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"White Cross" Flew Over Snipers Firing From Church and Hospital

Treachery of Mexicans at Vera Cruz Told in Mail Dispatch from The Herald's Correspondent—Priest's Lie Costs Lives of Several Jackies—Mosquitoes and Sand Flies Now Most Serious Menace to American Sailors and Marines.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.
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Vera Cruz, May 1.—It is hard to realize that this is the same city into which our troops poured Tuesday and Wednesday in the face of a scattered fire from several hundred advantageous points. Except for the presence of our bluejackets and officers on the streets during the day, Vera Cruz bears every resemblance to the average Latin-American seaport.

The naval authorities have taken hold and are planning to construct an entirely new civil structure. Debris is being cleared away, carts manned by bluejackets are cleaning up the streets, street car crews have been reassured and started back to work, and the streets are almost as crowded during the early morning and late afternoon as under normal conditions.

The confidence of the public rapidly is being restored through the conduct of the men as well as the assurances offered by Admiral Fletcher. The attitude of the enlisted men has been above reproach. As far as I have been able to ascertain, there has been but one case of drunkenness among the more than 4,000 men quartered in and about the city.

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was closed up in the Capital, published its first Vera Cruz edition, giving the Americans here an English newspaper for the first time in the history of Vera Cruz. And never was a newspaper more greedily sought, for it carried the first news any of us had had from the States since the landing on Tuesday. There was little enough, but all were grateful for that little.

It was determined today that American forces would establish martial law here because of the unwillingness of city and State officials to resume their public functions. Tomorrow Admiral Fletcher will issue a proclamation announcing this determination.

Despite a conscientious effort on the part of patrols to clear arms and ammunition from all houses, it is quite evident that thousands of rifles and large quantities of ammunition remain in and about the city, hidden in preparation for sudden action. As a warning of drastic action to follow, a proclamation tonight instructs all natives to bring to the provost marshal before noon tomorrow arms and ammunition in their possession.

Treachery Attack. Most of the sniping has stopped, but it is still unsafe to stand in front of a light at night or in an open door or window. We have had no men injured since Thursday, but many have been shot at and several Mexicans have paid with their lives for their treacherous acts. Last night tonight Mexicans found with arms in their possession will be dealt with summarily. The military forces are just beginning to realize how carefully Maas planted the city with traps. The five tonight Mexicans found with arms in their possession will be dealt with summarily. The military forces are just beginning to realize how carefully Maas planted the city with